

1 3.3.14 RECREATION

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<i>Would the project:</i>				
(a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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3 Environmental Setting

4 The Project area is located in the southeast portion of San Pablo Bay, the northern
 5 extension of the San Francisco Bay, in Contra Costa County. Approximately 90 square
 6 miles, San Pablo Bay is used for recreational purposes such as bird watching, boating,
 7 sailing, and kayaking, and is also used for fishing, especially for sturgeon and striped
 8 bass.

9 There are two formally designated recreational areas near the Project area. The first,
 10 Lone Tree Point, is a 10-acre regional park managed by the East Bay Regional Park
 11 District in the unincorporated town of Rodeo. Lone Tree Point is adjacent to the Project
 12 Area to the northeast and provides a water-side picnic area and benches within sight of
 13 the bay (ABAG 2008a; Bay Nature 2008).

14 The second, the Bay Trail, is a planned recreational corridor that will encircle
 15 San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of hiking and
 16 bicycling trails (ABAG 2008b). Roughly 290 miles of the trail have been completed to
 17 date. The portion of the Bay Trail in the Project area currently consists of an off-street
 18 trail along the shore from south of the onshore Project area to the Victoria Crescent
 19 Open Space in the city of Hercules, and a planned section of trail from the Victoria

Crescent Open Space to the northeast along the shore of the Bay through Rodeo. The planned section will eventually be connected to existing trail segments to the north and south. The onshore Project area is not directly located on any existing or planned section of the Bay Trail. The Bay Trail provides opportunities for a variety of recreational activities in the Project area including walking, fishing, jogging, bicycling and skating (ABAG 2008b).

Regulatory Setting

Federal

There are no Federal regulations that pertain to recreational resources relevant to this Project.

State

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (1997)

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program was established by the California State Legislature in 1997 to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay area, given the area's unique natural resource and recreational needs (State of California 2008). The conservancy helps public agencies and private nonprofit organizations preserve open space, promote the use of habitat restoration projects for environmental education, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat, provide public access to open space areas, and restore urban waterfronts in the nine Bay Area counties (Bay Conservancy 2008).

Local

The city of Hercules and Contra Costa County have General Plans with elements that address recreation. Hercules published the "City of Hercules, California, General Plan" in September 1998 and the Housing Element was approved in February 2003. Contra Costa County published "Contra Costa County General Plan 2005-2020" in January 2005.

Impact Analysis and Mitigation

Impact Discussion

- (a) Increases in demand for recreational facilities are typically associated with substantial increases in population. The proposed Project would not contain a residential component that would result in an increased use of existing

1 recreational facilities. Deconstruction activities associated with the proposed
2 Project would improve the view of San Pablo Bay from Lone Tree Point and the
3 Bay Trail. The improved view could lead to a slight increase in the use of the
4 Lone Tree Point's water-side picnic area and benches and/or a slight increase in
5 the use of the Bay trail, resulting in an increase in the use of park or recreational
6 facilities. Additionally, deconstruction activities at the onshore Project area would
7 not impact any existing or planned sections of the Bay Trail. However, the
8 potential increase and consequential impacts would not be to such a degree that
9 a substantial physical deterioration of the existing facilities would occur or be
10 accelerated. Therefore implementation of the proposed Project would result in a
11 less than significant impact. (Class III)

- 12 (b) The proposed Project would not include or require the construction or expansion
13 of recreational facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project would result in no
14 impact to recreational resources. (No Impact)